

POLICE – METRO AVIATION UNIT

DESCRIPTION

In 1986 the Counties of Henrico and Chesterfield, and the City of Richmond entered into a multi-jurisdictional agreement that facilitated the use of police aircraft in all three jurisdictions and created the Metro Aviation Unit. As a part of this agreement, the Henrico Police Division is charged with housing the aircraft, supervision of the pilots, fiscal management, and planning the training for the Unit.

OBJECTIVES

- The Unit will provide aerial observation and support for local area jurisdictions.
- The Unit will conduct patrols of identified high crime areas.
- The Unit will provide transportation of prisoners to and from other jurisdictions upon request.
- The Unit will provide aerial photographs of any location in the metropolitan area upon request.
- The Unit will provide routine and special aerial patrol within the tri-jurisdictional area.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The FY2020-21 budget includes \$105,000 for the extradition of prisoners, a \$25,000 increase from FY2019-20 to cover rising fuel costs. Extradition costs are fully reimbursable from the State Supreme Court. The balance of the budget, \$382,000, is divided equally between Chesterfield County, the City of Richmond, and Henrico County. In FY2020-21, Henrico’s share of the budget remains constant at \$127,332. Henrico’s Police Division fiscally manages and supervises the Metro Aviation Unit. The combined budget for Metro Aviation and Extradition totals \$487,000.

The Metro Aviation Unit continues to be a valuable and effective crime fighting tool to the participating localities and the region. The localities continue to increase their usage of the unit and each locality now assigns three pilots to the unit.

FISCAL YEAR 2021 SUMMARY

Annual Fiscal Plan

Description	FY19	FY20	FY21	Change
	Actual	Original	Approved	20 to 21
Personnel	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	0.0%
Operation	365,401	422,000	447,000	5.9%
Capital	697,426	40,000	40,000	0.0%
Total	\$ 1,062,827	\$ 462,000	\$ 487,000	5.4%
Personnel Complement	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

	<u>FY19</u>	<u>FY20</u>	<u>FY21</u>	<u>Change 20 to 21</u>
Workload Measures				
Number of Aerial Transports	29	55	55	0
Flight Hours for Aerial Transports	123	220	220	0
Extraditions (commercial carriers)	40	43	43	0

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS (CONTINUED)

The three participating jurisdictions own three aircraft:

- 2006 Cessna 182
- 2000 Cessna 172
- 1979 Cessna 182RG (Transport Aircraft)

The 2006 Cessna 182 and 2000 Cessna 172 are equipped with a spotlight, a forward looking infra-red (FLIR) camera, and a video downlink that permits the aircraft to broadcast images while flying for viewing at varying locations within the three jurisdictions.

During FY2018-19, the unit responded to 768 calls for service, conducted 103 surveillances, with a total of 1,091 flight hours. In addition, aircraft assisted with 40 apprehensions, 29 aerial transports, and 200 aerial pictures were taken during FY2018-19.

In September 2019, the Board of Supervisors approved an amendment totaling \$2,100,000 for a third patrol aircraft which, along with its downlink system, is currently in the procurement process. The new aircraft will be added to the fleet assisting primarily with patrol and making the total complement four planes, three primarily for patrol and one primarily for transport. The cost of the plane was split equally among the regional partners with Henrico's share totaling \$700,000.